

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: George Wiley Center <georgewileycenterri@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 10:17 AM
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC); George, Linda (DPUC); Jennifer Wood
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Clarification of George Wiley Center request Fwd: Moratorium Extension Sign-On

Dear RI PUC and Division of Public Utilities,

This is a note to clarify the intent of the George Wiley Center's request, along with other organizations who signed onto the letter below. Our intent is to protect as many low-income consumers for as long as possible from unfair utility terminations.

Right now we are on the cusp of potentially passing important legislation that would make utilities for low-income consumers more affordable, while we work together on passing these reforms and while assistance from federal and state funding is rolling out, it is especially important that we hold off on harmful terminations to low income households.

For these reasons, and in addition to our previously stated concerns, the George Wiley Center and our organizational allies, ask that the RI PUC and Division support the Governor's proposal to extend the moratorium on protected consumers from June 25 to July 25, 2021. Additionally, if the Governor extends the emergency declaration we request that the RI PUC and Division extend these protections in synch.

Sincerely,
Camilo Viveiros
George Wiley Center
cell: 401-338-1665

----- Forwarded message -----

From: George Wiley Center <georgewileycenterri@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 23, 2021 at 7:34 PM
Subject: Moratorium Extension Sign-On
To: <luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov>

Dear Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission,

Luly Massaro, Clerk, Please pass this on to RI PUC Commissioners.

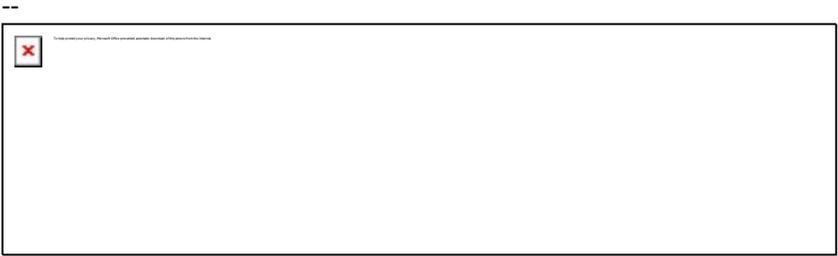
As you are aware Governor McKee extended the State of Rhode Island state of emergency through July 9th, 2021. At 11:59 on June 25, 2021, the current moratorium which protects gas customers categorized as "protected" by the Commission's termination rules and/or who take service on the A-60 rate from termination, will end. Although National Grid has already sent out thousands of termination notices for the end of June, we hope that you put a hold on terminations considering the extension of the emergency declaration. Considering the Governor has extended the state emergency, we hope that National Grid and other utilities operating in RI will not conduct utility terminations during this extended period.

Please let us know if you will request that National Grid not conduct any terminations until the State of RI Emergency Declaration is ended. We all know what a challenging year has been for all of us and our loved ones, neighbors and fellow workers. As reported in the Providence Journal, Rhode Island had the second-most known coronavirus cases per capita among the 50 states since the beginning of the pandemic and

Rhode Island has had the fourth-most deaths per capita among the 50 states since the beginning of the pandemic.

We have already been working with our members and the public at large who have received termination notices at the end of June. Syncing up utility policy with state policy will allow for more utility consumers to enroll in payment plans to avoid terminations.

Sincerely,
The George Wiley Center, and
DARE
SUNRISE RI
Providence Democratic Socialists of America
RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty
Nature's Trust Rhode Island
RI Sierra Club
Poor People's Campaign Rhode Island
Mercy Ecology
Housing Network of Rhode Island
Community Health Innovations of Rhode Island
RI Transit Riders
RenewRI
Sojourner House
Priscilla De La Cruz, affiliated with Green Energy Consumers and Environmental Council



Organizing for social and economic justice

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